

2013 Inyo and Sierra National Forests Packer Partnerships

For the 2013 operating season, the forests continued with the work of trail clearing and damage repairs resulting from the major wind event, “The Devil’s Windstorm” of 2011. All operators were again told that the Agency needed their help in opening trails, not only for their commercial uses, but for the public in general. The Forests greatly appreciated the help provided by each commercial operator.

Bishop Pack Outfitters

- Packing services for the California Cooperative Snow Survey, especially cleanup of cabin repair debris.
- Conducted early season trail work to open trails for all users.
- Employees assisted in the evacuation of members of the public for medical reasons.

Clyde Pack Outfit

- Packed garbage out of the wilderness.
- Provided pack stock support to the California Department of Water Resources.
- Conducted early season trail maintenance
- Assisted with the medical evacuation of a visitor experiencing cardiac issues
- Assisted Outward Bound students that experienced minor foot problems while on tour
- Provided information to the public on the new campfire restrictions on the forest

Cottonwood Pack Station

- The pack station continued to provide substantial support for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife implementation of the Golden Trout Conservation Assessment and Strategy and support of the State fish stocking program.
- Pack stock support to the California Department of Water Resources.
- Pack stock support for Sequoia Kings National Park for wilderness ranger resupplies and garbage backhaul.
- Holder’s partnership in garbage and manure removal from all rec sites in the Horseshoe Meadow recreation area is appreciated very much.

D & F Pack Station

- Assisted with a search and rescue of two missing girls in the Kaiser Wilderness.
- Hauled multiple loads of garbage out of the George Lake area of the Kaiser Wilderness
- Employees conducted early season trail clearing for all users.

Glacier Pack Train

- Conducted early season trail work to open trails for all users.
- Continued assistance to the public when necessary.

High Sierra Pack Station

- Provided packing services for Southern California Edison and their cabin maintenance crews
- Conducted early season trail work to open trails for all users.
- Packed out garbage for both Sierra National Forest as well as Kings Canyon National Park.
- Donated a packer and several pack animals to the Mono people for their annual tribal walk.
- Provided packing services for the High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew while they did trail maintenance on the Pacific Crest Trail.

Lost Valley Pack Station

- Continued assistance to the public when necessary.
- Assisted with the timely evacuation of a visitor suffering from altitude sickness near Sallie Keyes

Mammoth Lakes Pack Outfit

- Provided labor and equipment to remove down trees on over 20 miles of trail within the Mammoth Lakes Basin trail system.

Minarets Pack Station

- Employees assisted an injured hiker out of the wilderness in Yosemite NP and back to their vehicle.
- Provided pack support for the High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew and the Ansel Adams Foundation while they performed trail maintenance in the Ansel Adams Wilderness.
- Worked with a volunteer packer to improve her packing skills so that she could provide better pack support for volunteer trail workers.
- Employees conducted pre-season trail reconnaissance and maintenance to open trails for all users.
- Packed out several loads of garbage from the Sheep Crossing area.
- Assisted dehydrated visitors back to their vehicles on the Cassidy Trail.
- Provided the Forest Service packer with a solid trail animal after his horse was injured on the Cassidy trail

McGee Creek Pack Station

- Packing services in support of Forest Service trail maintenance crews.
- Packing services for volunteers from Back Country Horsemen Association (BCHA) and Friends of the Inyo (FOI) to work on a section of trail covered in down trees and debris.
- Conducted early season trail work to open trails for all users. 2012 was an early season opening due to lack of snow requiring trail work prior to FS seasonal employees being hired.
- Employees assisted in the repair of the McGee Creek Bridge damaged by spring runoff.
- Assisted in cutting out over 200 trees to allow access to McGee Pass.

Muir Trail Ranch

- Employees assisted the Forest Service in early season trail clearing for all users.
- Employees assisted in a medical evacuation from Kings Canyon NP.
- Employees assisted in locating a lost visitor

Pine Creek Pack Station

- Employees assisted the Forest Service in early season trail clearing for all users.
- The pack station assisted the public in medical evacuation when necessary and requested.

Rainbow Pack Outfitters

- Continued to support Sequoia Kings National Park in their wilderness management.
- Provided pack stock support to the California Department of Water Resources.
- Provided pack stock support to Sequoia National Park wilderness rangers with resupplies and garbage back haul.
- Employees provided support for emergency medical evacuations and other backcountry assistance to the public.
- Employees conducted early season trail clearing for all users.

Reds Meadow Pack Station

- Provided corral facilities for volunteers from the BCHA and the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA), while they were working to cut out and open trails in the Reds Meadow and Fish Creek areas heavily damaged by 2012 by “The Devil’s Windstorm”.
- Provided labor and equipment to remove downed trees on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) and John Muir Trail to open the routes for the early season through hikers.
- Provided packing support for American Conversation Education (ACE), BCHA, FOI and Student Conservation Association (SCA) trail crews, including hauling food, gear and hand tools.
- Assisted the Forest Service in cutting trees blocking secondary trails.

Rock Creek Pack Station/Mt. Whitney Pack Trains

- Employees provided assistance to backcountry users, including assistance for medical reasons.
- The pack station provided pack stock support to the Forest Service for trail work in the Hilton Lakes Basin. This was a season long effort. Holder has been engaged in providing on site feedback.
- Employees conducted preseason trail reconnaissance and maintenance to open trails for all users.
- Holder reaches out to credited institutions for student hires who have the opportunity to earn course credit through their institution.

Sequoia Kings Pack Trains

- Pack station continues to provide season long support to Sequoia Kings National Park wilderness management, including garbage removal and ranger resupplies.
- Employees assisted the public with medical evacuations.

The Three Corner Round Pack Outfit

- Upon their arrival, the Holder cleans up after public use at the Pinyon Creek Base Camp site. Often times, there is a substantial amount of garbage. Holder continued to remove invasive species from base camp area.

Yosemite Trails Pack Station

- Conducted early season trail work to open trails to all users in the Big Creek area.